



Annual Report 2020

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Chapter 1 - Message From Head of Guernsey Coastguard

I welcome you Guernsey Coastguard's 2020 annual report, after a challenging year due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

The Bailiwick is blessed to have a considerable number of Search and Rescue Assets at Guernsey Coastguards' disposal. These include three RNLI lifeboats, Channel Island Air Search, Civil Protection Volunteers, Cliff Rescue. These are supported and operated by volunteers and require continual fundraising efforts. I would like to thank everyone involved in keeping these assets available and ready all year round. Guernsey Coastguard works with and shares best practice with the French Coastguard, Jersey Coastguard, and HM Coastguard in the UK.

Regular meetings, peer reviews, and audits all shape Guernsey Coastguard's development and direction. In 2020 training and development took place with all our Search and Rescue and Coastguard organisations in France, Jersey and the UK remotely rather than the traditional face to face meetings which despite the circumstances was effective.

During 2020 despite general border controls being in place which limited pleasure boating activities due to COVID-19, Guernsey Coastguard maintained a number of proactive campaigns to reduce the risk of mariners getting into trouble and requiring our assistance. The '3 Ps' campaign highlighted the need to **Prepare** yourself and your boat, **Provide** the right safety equipment, and **Perform** responsibly on the water.

During 2020, and on National 999 Day (9 September) specifically, Guernsey Coastguard launched its own social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. Early indications suggest the social media accounts do provide another avenue to communicate vital sea safety information and strong public engagement.

Captain David Barker

Head of Guernsey Coastguard

Chapter 2 - Profile

2.1. Purpose

Guernsey Coastguard is the Search and Rescue arm of the States of Guernsey and staff from Guernsey Harbours act as the duty Search and Mission Coordinator and/or Director during an incident. Guernsey Coastguard alongside Alderney Coastguard cover the Bailiwick's territorial seas and coastal areas. The purpose also needs to be commensurate with the requirements of the Islands in respect of Search and Rescue coordination and aligning to the standards set by the United Kingdom Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and these are periodically reviewed by the MCA from time to time.

2.2. Vision

Guernsey Coastguard provides a national 24-hour maritime and coastal search and rescue (SAR) emergency response service throughout the Bailiwick and its territorial seas. Guernsey Coastguard works alongside with the UK HM Coastguard, Jersey Coastguard, and the French Coastguard, and voluntary SAR organisations under established plans and procedures agreed by all parties.

2.3. Core Values

The core business of Guernsey Coastguard encompasses the following services:

- Provision of year around 24 hours a day Search and Rescue Coordination/Direction for the Bailiwick of Guernsey.
- Provision of periodic training exercises to test a variety of scenarios in the marine environment or on the Bailiwick's coastline.
- To operate Guernsey Coastguard in accordance with international treaty obligations and best practice which have been extended into the Bailiwick. (SOLAS, UNCLOS, IAMSAR).
- Reduce the loss of life and suffering by providing SAR coordination facilities and expertise locally.

Other benefits that reinforce our values include:

- Safer and more secure environment for aviation and maritime related industries, commerce, recreation and travel.
- Availability of SAR resources for the provision of initial response and relief capabilities critical in saving lives in early stages of emergency incidents and SAR operations in support of the emergency management system.
- Positive publicity through well-performed SAR operations.
- Opportunity for promoting cooperation and communication among nation states and jurisdictions through SAR provision.

2.4. Relationship With Voluntary SAR Organisations

The Bailiwick is fortunate to have several SAR assets available to Guernsey Coastguard. Three RNLI lifeboats, two all-weather and one inshore, a fixed wing aircraft (Channel Islands Air Search), Civil Protection Volunteers and assets with Guernsey Law Enforcement. Guernsey Coastguard would like to thank the Bailiwick all voluntary Search and Rescue organisations and other third parties that provide, raise money, provide volunteers for air land and sea-based assets for the Bailiwick.



Chapter 3 - Review Of 2020

3.1. Introduction

Guernsey Harbours' staff also act as the Search and Rescue (SAR) Mission Coordinators for Guernsey Coastguard covering the waters and coastline of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Guernsey Coastguard has staff providing search and rescue co-ordination and maritime information through Guernsey Coastguard on VHF Channels 16 and 20.

A continuous watch is kept on these Channels by staff at the Joint Emergency Services Control Centre (JESCC) based at Guernsey Police Headquarters. Guernsey Coastguard is also equipped to receive VHF DSC distress alerts and the Search and Rescue Co-ordinators are trained by the UK HM Coastguard using the SARIS search and rescue IT system.



Picture: Chris George

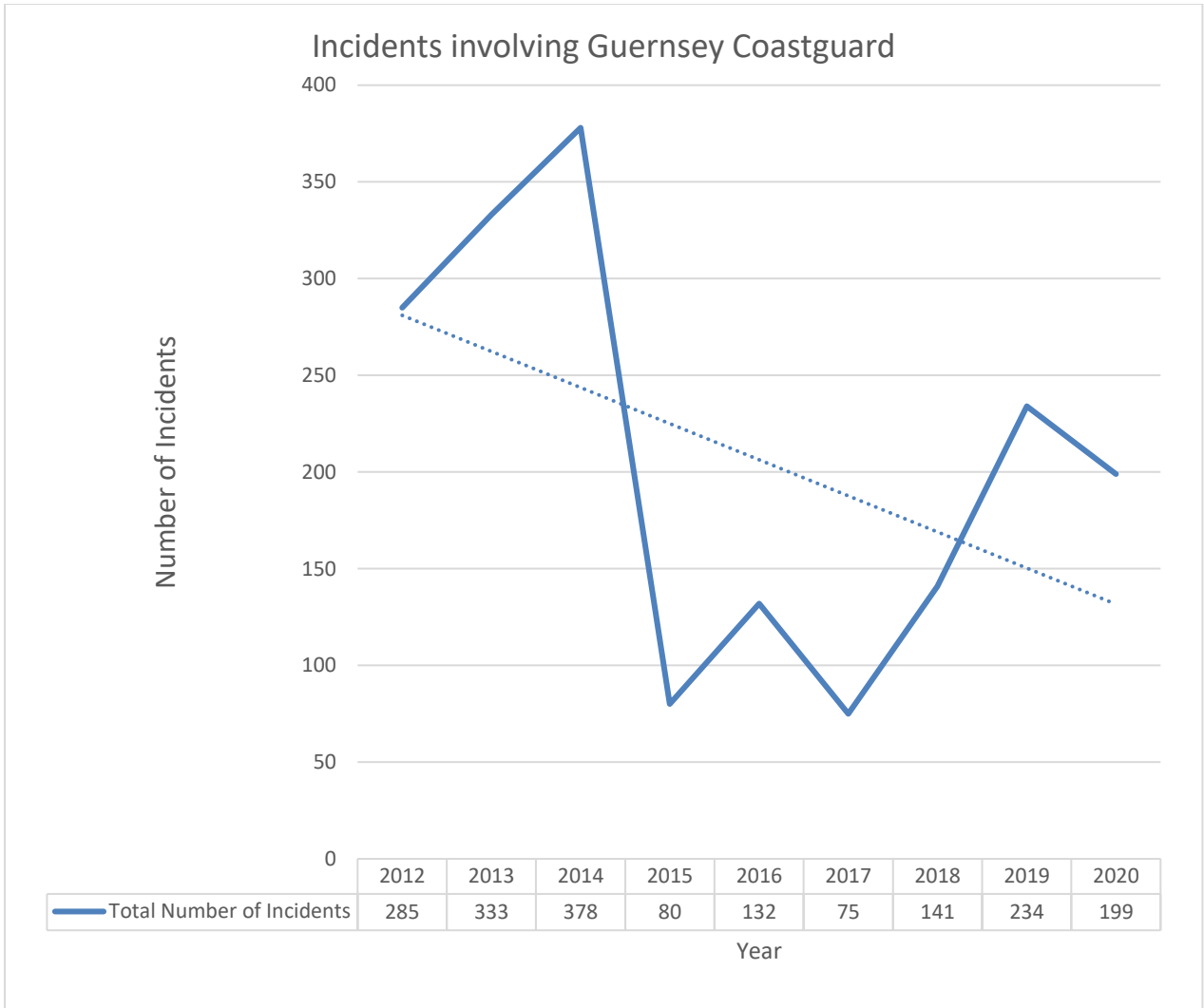
3.2. Statistics

2020 saw a drop in the number of incidents involving Guernsey Coastguard. 199 incidents were managed, compared to 234 in 2019. This is likely to be as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic as boating activity was restricted. There was a considerable decrease in requests for vessel tow assistance in 2020 with only 31 cases compared to 2019's figure of 72.

There was a marked increase in cases classified as objects in the sea. The number of 'Missing Persons' cases which Guernsey Coastguard was involved increased to 16 in 2020 compared to just 1 in 2019. The graph overleaf outlines the trends, currently downwards, for all incident types since 2012.

The full list of incident types can be found in the table below and the general historic trend can be found overleaf.

Coastguard Incidents	2019	2020
Vessel Taking on water/Sinking	4	6
Overdue Vessel	10	2
Tow assistance	72	31
Monitor	38	26
Vessel Unsure of Position	2	0
Man Overboard/Person in Water	9	18
Person(s) Stranded/Cliff Rescue	8	9
Vessel/PWC/SUP/Kayak/Other in Difficulty	5	4
Diver Emergency	1	1
Medical	13	16
General	18	12
Beacon Alert	17	10
Flare Report	6	13
Spoken word Mayday/Pan-Pan	4	3
Object at Sea	8	22
Navigational Hazards/Pollution	10	9
Missing Person	1	16
Aircraft Emergency	8	1
Total Number of Incidents	234	199
Total Number of Persons at Risk	984	347



Source: Guernsey Coastguard

3.3. Operation Sonar



An object, which was thought to be Second World War ordnance, (later confirmed as a United States Mk 54 depth charge) was discovered in the vicinity of the Reffee Buoy which is near the QE2 marina entrance. A team of local divers discovered the ordnance during a routine dive in the area. Guernsey Coastguard worked with Bailiwick Law Enforcement to coordinate an operation to dispose of the device with the help of a team of six from the Royal Navy's Southern Diving Unit 2 based at HMNB Portsmouth, the team included divers and support crew to allow them to operate in a COVID bubble and not rely on local support (for infection control measures)

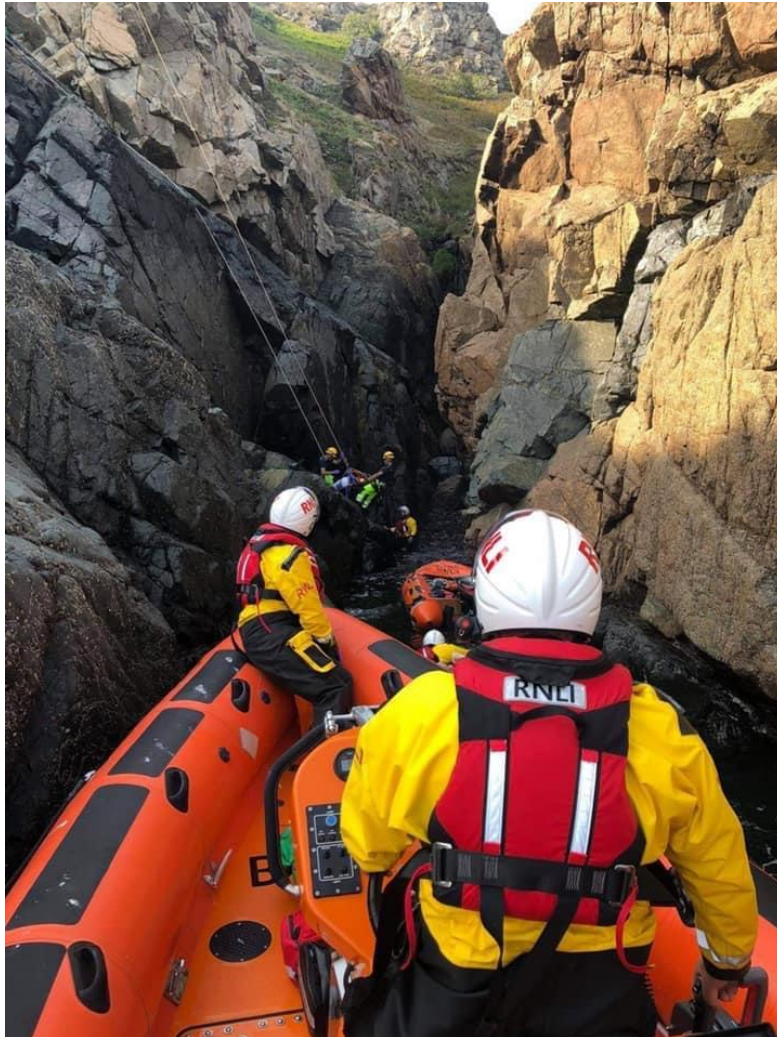
The discovery was safely disposed of at 12:05pm local time on 16 November 2020. Guernsey Coastguard encourages the reporting of such objects found at sea, or on the Bailiwick's coastline so these objects and devices can be safely and securely disposed of in a proper manner.

3.4. Cliff Rescue

In August 2020 Guernsey Coastguard worked with the RNLI, Guernsey Cliff Rescue after a 60-year-old man had fallen 20 feet down a cliff at Le Gouffre on the south coast of Guernsey during a recreational climb. It was determined that the safest means to extract the casualty was to lower him to the base of the cliff and to transfer him into one of the waiting Lifeboats. Whilst the cliff rescue was being setup, the Inshore Lifeboat collected a paramedic from the beach at Petit Bot. The casualty was safely lowered to the base of the cliff and transferred to the ALB via dinghy with the Cliff Rescue team.

OFFICIAL

Both lifeboats arrived back in St Peter Port shortly after 5:30pm where the casualty was transferred to a waiting ambulance having suffered injuries to his legs and arms.



Picture: RNLI Guernsey

Chapter 4 - Stakeholder Engagement

4.1. Introduction

Guernsey Coastguard is always looking to improve how it engages with commercial operators, mariners, local boat owners and Search and Rescue organisations whenever possible. Guernsey Coastguard staff regularly engage with marine organisations and other interest groups in meeting the needs of the Bailiwick. Guernsey Coastguard regularly liaises with Jersey and Alderney Coastguard's in the Channel Islands. The French and UK HM Coastguards are also involved in planning for future SAR incidents that could involve most if not all the services. Guernsey Coastguard is exploring ways to reach a wider audience using the success of Guernsey Harbours engagement with social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Guernsey Coastguard believes it offers an opportunity to reach a new audience who may be new to boating or may not be aware of the service.

4.2. Kayak Sticker Scheme

Guernsey Coastguard launched a, voluntary registration scheme that matches the water-based equipment to its owner if it has been lost or is found un-attended. The scheme is available for any marine sports equipment such as kite surfers, kayaks, paddleboards, windsurfers etc.



Water Based Activity - Voluntary Registration Scheme

Registration No.....

Owners Name.....

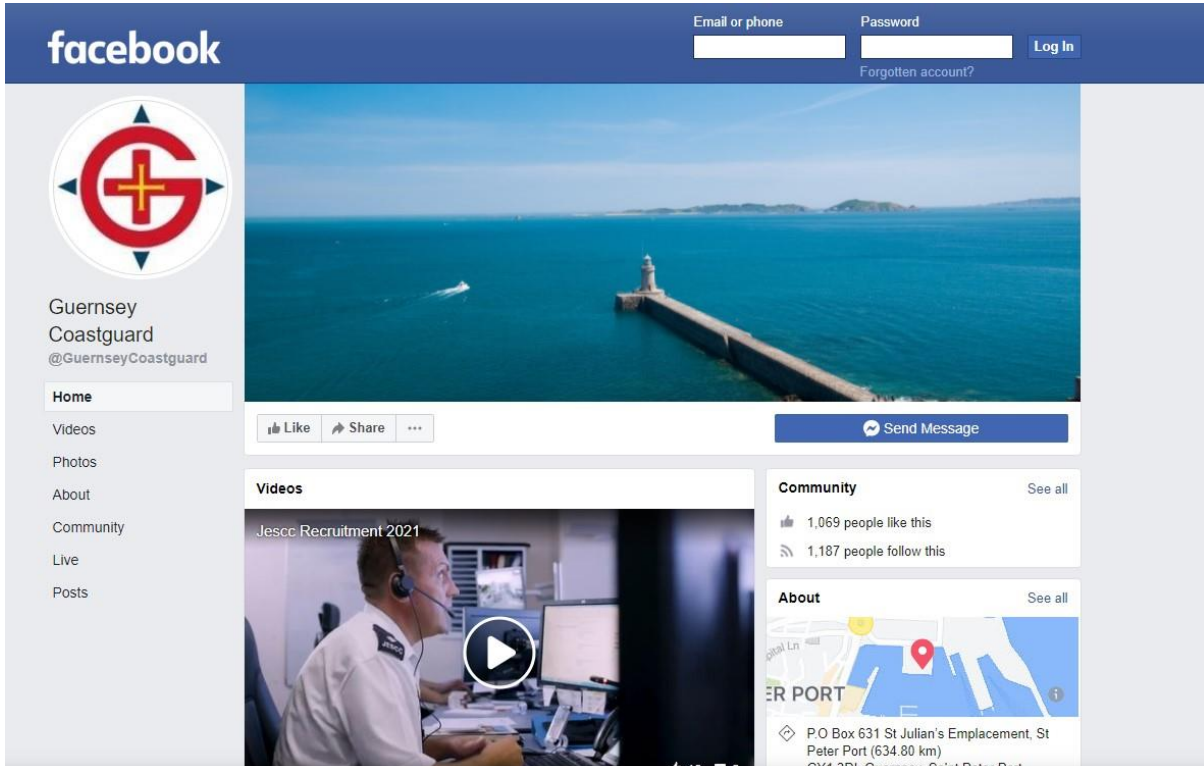
Mobile No.....

Alternative Contact No.....

**FOUND THIS ITEM AND CAN'T LOCATE THE OWNER?
PLEASE CALL GUERNSEY COASTGUARD (720672) IMMEDIATELY.**

Jersey Coastguard and the UK HM Coastguard already operate a similar scheme. The primary motivation for the scheme's introduction is the need to identify the ownership of equipment if washed up or found floating un-attended at sea. It will give Guernsey Coastguard the ability to contact the owner, this can save precious time for the emergency services and Search and Rescue assets such as the RNLI and Channel Islands Air Search who may be out looking for an owner when there is no requirement to do so.

4.3. Guernsey Coastguard Social Media Presence



Picture: Guernsey Coastguard/Facebook

Guernsey Coastguard formally launched its own social media presence on National 999 Day in 2020. Guernsey Coastguard relied on using the Guernsey Harbours' social media accounts to communicate important information and updates. Similar to other national coastguard services and agencies like Jersey Coastguard and HM Coastguard in the UK, social media users are reminded not to report any emergencies on social media, either in public posts or in using private messaging functions. Instead, if anyone requires help or witnesses someone in trouble around the Bailiwick's coastline and territorial seas, please telephone 999/112 or via VHF Channel 16 radio and ask for Guernsey Coastguard.

Sea safety messaging and general updates of Search and Rescue missions when there is a requirement to do so are the main aim of the Channels. Social media is just another avenue for communicating with the public to reinforce Guernsey Coastguard's mission and values.

We will also share material and good work that local and national voluntary search and rescue organisations do in saving lives at sea (RNLI, HM Coastguard). We will use all methods of improving engagement and understanding of Guernsey Coastguard's aims and objectives using a variety means and social media is another tool in that mission.



Picture: Guernsey Coastguard/Twitter

Chapter 5 - Contact Details

Postal Address: Guernsey Coastguard c/o Guernsey Harbours, P.O. Box 631, St Julian's Emplacement, St Peter Port, Guernsey, GY1 3DL

Tel: +44 (0)1481 220229 / in an emergency dial 999/112 and ask for the Coastguard.

Email: guernsey.coastguard@gov.gg

Web: <http://www.harbours.gg/guernsey-coastguard-SAR>